

*From desert oases to granite peaks, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument contains lands of contrast and stories of adaptation.*



**W**elcome, once again to the **National Monument Manager's update**, I'm Danella George and I'm proud to be able to give you the latest information about what is happening within your National Monument.

Let me begin this month's update with a special thanks to all of our National Monument staff and friends, who were on hand to help us celebrate Earth Day at the Visitor

Center, April 22. Things started at first light with our own David Korzilius, leading a nature hike along the Visitor Center's own Ed Hastey trail.

Later in the morning Steve Kupferman, a Bureau of Land Management geologist from the Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, came out and gave a presentation about earthquakes and fault lines within the National Monument and Coachella Valley. After lunch Bonnie Adkins, a Visitor Center specialist, helped us to premier the new native grasses garden.

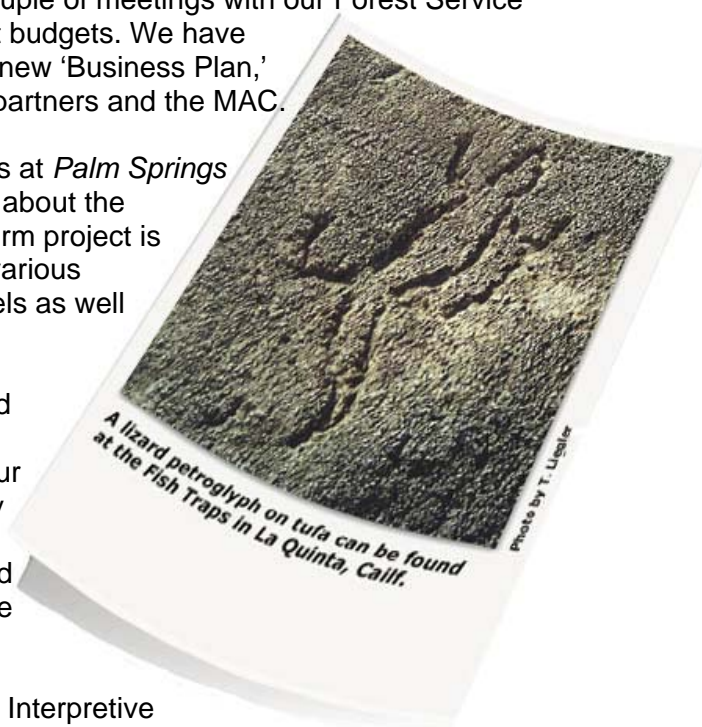
Honestly, if you missed this year's Earth Day celebration at the Visitor Center, you want to be sure to mark your calendars for next year. You can be sure we are going to be taking the time necessary to enjoy and celebrate everything nature has to offer.

**A**s usual April was a busy month of meetings and planning sessions, for all of us at the National Monument. We had a couple of meetings with our Forest Service partners to discuss future and current budgets. We have started preparing for the foundations for our new 'Business Plan,' which we will be discussing further with our partners and the MAC.

I have been working closely with our partners at *Palm Springs Life* on the production of a documentary film about the National Monument. This has been a long-term project is being created with the idea of showing it at various kiosks, hotels in the area, local cable channels as well as local visitor centers, and even the airport.

May is looking to be full of activities. As I said earlier we started development of a National Monument Business Plan, with the help of our Washington, DC office. Things got underway Tuesday morning with many of our partners, In attendance. Ideally, we will be able to build a plan to help guide us financially through the next several years.

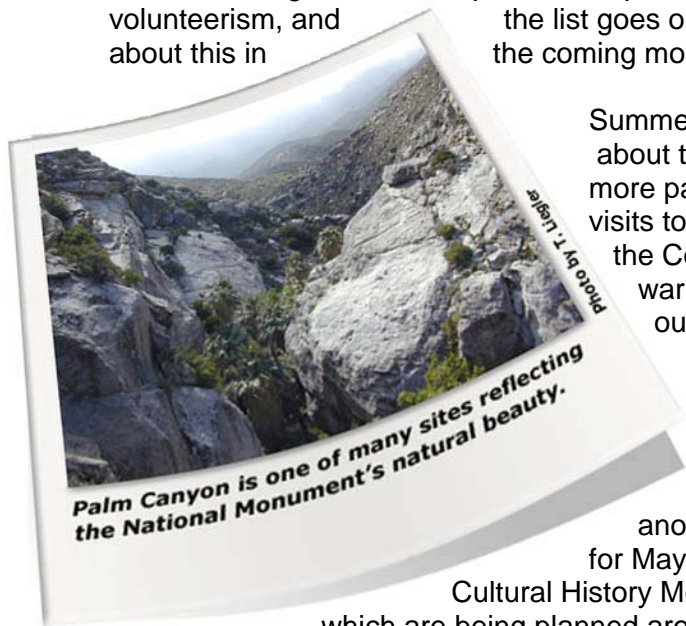
We are also in the process of re-working our Interpretive Environmental Education Plan, and the long awaited and much



anticipated Trails' Plan is still being reviewed, and revamped, prior to public release. Jim Foote, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner, has been working with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, and the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy in development of a sound Trails' Plan. Additionally, Mr. Foote will be working closely with the Monument Advisory Committee in the creation of a 'Signage sub-committee,' for the National Monument.

The sub-committee will be consulting with local jurisdictions in the development and establish some working standards and guidelines for National Monument signs. This way we will be able to standardize the placement and design of 'boundary' and 'trailhead' or entry signs adjacent and within the National Monument.

**T**he nonprofit organization is well underway, as our partners work toward re-organizing themselves in order to take on and meet the new and additional responsibilities for supporting the National Monument. Among the many aspects are fundraising, bookstore operations, special projects, National Monument volunteerism, and about this in the list goes on and on. Expect to hear more from us the coming months.



Summer just around the corner, and school about to let out, so I am sure we can expect to see more participation in outdoor activities, including visits to the National Monument. However, here in the Coachella Valley, things to get just a bit warm, so it is necessary for you to plan your outdoor activities with care. Be sure you plan to have plenty of water, sunscreen and a hat when you go out.

Tracy Liegler, our Environmental Education Specialist, has put together another remarkable schedule of special events for May, which just happens to be designated as Cultural History Month. Among the many exciting events which are being planned are:

- A lecture by Jim Cornett, Palm Springs Desert Museum Natural Science Curator, May 7, talking about Native American roles and palm oasis ecology.
- An Archeology Symposium at Palm Springs Desert Museum planned for May 8.
- The Children's Discover Museum in Rancho Mirage will be sponsoring a children's fair May 15.
- Greg Hill, BLM Planning and Environmental Coordinator, will be presenting a history of 'public domain' from the Revolution to creation of the National Monument at Palm Desert Library, May 17.

- In addition, you can learn about the many uses of native grasses, when Bonnie Adkins, National Monument Visitor Center specialist offers a special National Monument Visitor Center presentation May 21.
- And over the Memorial Day weekend, May 28 and 29 the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is sponsoring the California Indian Storytelling Festival, at the Spa Resort Hotel, in Palm Springs.

**F**or additional information and contact numbers about the above programs you may either call, or visit, the National Monument Visitor Center at [p] 760 862-9984, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, Calif. You can also logon and check out our Web site [w] [http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/santarosa/santa\\_rosa\\_national\\_monument.html](http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/santarosa/santa_rosa_national_monument.html) .

We recently installed a few new trailhead signs, to help explain which trails are being included in our trails avoidance programs. However, if you have any questions or need some additional information, please feel free to call the Visitor Center or visit our Web site.

This just about covers everything new for this month; however, I do want to invite you all to our next National Monument Advisory Committee meeting, June 5, 9 a.m. in the Palm Desert City council building. We are going to be focusing on the pending plans for a soil resource inventory and the steps necessary for landscape management of noxious non-native, invasive species. As always, these MAC meeting are open to the public, after all it is your National Monument!

*Until next time,*

*Danella George*

**Manager**

**Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument**